Stocks of Business Inventories in the United States, 1928-71

Tables 1 through 3 present annual estimates of stocks of business inventories that are consistent with the estimates of change in business inventories in the national income and product accounts. The stock figures are for yearends for the years 1928-71. They are shown in three valuations: book value, i.e., in the values at which they were carried on the owners' books: constant (1958) prices; and current prices, i.e., stocks at end-1950 are valued at yearend 1950 prices, stocks at end-1971 are valued at yearend 1971 prices, etc. Estimates are shown in the following breakdown:

Total business inventories

Farm

Nonfarm, total

By legal form of organization

Corporate

Noncorporate

By industry

Manufacturing

Wholesale trade

Retail trade

All other

These estimates have been prepared as a segment of a larger project to measure the entire tangible wealth of the Nation which BEA is conducting. Previously published BEA work on capital stock has provided estimates, as listed below, of (1) residential capital, (2) fixed nonresidential business capital, and (3) provisional estimates of consumer durable goods.

(1) Allan H. Young, John C. Musgrave, and Claudia Harkins, "Residential Capital in the United

d 1. This volume is available for \$7.75 from National Technical Information Service, 5258 Port Rayal Road, Spring-

field, Virginia 22151. Please mention accession number COM

States, 1925-70," Survey of Current Business, November 1971.

- (2) Office of Business Economics (now Bureau of Economic Analysis), Fixed Nonresidential Business Capital in the United States, 1925–1970, November 1971.
- (3) Henry Shavell, "The Stock of Durable Goods in the Hands of Consumers, 1946–1969," 1970 Proceedings of the Business and Economics Section of the American Statistical Association, 1971.

Future research is projected to cover stocks of government capital assets and land. Estimates of inventories owned by nonfinancial corporations, as of midyear for the years 1948-71, in constant (1958) prices and the current prices of each year, appeared in the article "Nonfinancial Corporations: New Measures of Output and Input," by John A. Gorman, in the March 1972 Survey.

The stocks in book values (table 1) and in constant (1958) prices (table 2) were calculated by cumulating the annual inventory changes, in book values and in constant (1958) prices, respectively, that are estimated in the national income and product accounts.³ An estimate of the level of each book value and constant price stock series was made for some single point in time for which appropriate data were available; that stock was then moved forward through time by adding the estimated annual changes and backward

through time by subtracting the annual changes. The stocks in the current prices of each yearend (table 3) were calculated from the estimated stocks in book values and in constant prices, as described later in this article.

Measures of inventory change

The "change in business inventories" component of current dollar GNP for a given year represents the change in physical volume of business inventories during the year valued at average prices of the year. This change is not necessarily the same as the change in the book value of inventories. Book value can change without any net change in volume but simply because of a change in the prices at which goods in inventory are valued. The "change in business inventories" component of current dollar GNP differs from the change in book value by the amount of the "inventory valuation adjustment."

The "change in business inventories" component of constant (1958) dollar GNP for a given year represents the

NOTE.-James Milton assisted in the

⁷¹⁻⁰¹¹¹¹ when ordering.
2. Estimates of the value of that portion of government capital operated by private contradors are given in the volume clied as item (2).

^{8.} Book value changes in nonterm business inventories are shown for broad industrial aggregates in table 5.5 of the annual income and product accounts published in the July SURVEY each year. Changes valued in constant (1988) prices are shown in tables 1.2, 1.5, and 1.6 of the annual accounts. Definitions and methodology underlying the national income and product accounts are described in National Income, 1964 Baltion, U.S. Income and Output (1968), and National Income and Product Accounts of the United States: Revised Estimates, 1929-64," Sunvay, August 1965. These publications are out of print, but their methodological sections are reproduced in Revelops in Concepts and Methods of National Income Statistics, a reprint volume published for BBA by the National Technical Information Service. This volume is available for \$3 from National Technical Information Service, 5258 Part Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22151. Please mention accession number PB 194 900 when ordering.

^{4.} The term "buriness" refers to one of the sectors for which entput is calculated in the national income and product accounts; the other sectors are general government, busiseholds and institutions, and rest of the world.

Preparation of the statistical estimates for this article.

change in physical volume of business inventories during the year valued at 1958 prices.

The inventory stocks in current prices shown in table 3 represent total yearend quantities valued at yearend prices. Annual changes in these stocks therefore reflect changes during the year not only in volume but also in prices. They differ from the inventory component of GNP because the latter values only the change in quantities at current prices.

The remainder of this note first discusses the implications of different inventory accounting methods and then outlines the way in which inventory change estimates are prepared in the national income and product accounts and the way in which those estimates were used to calculate the stock estimates presented here.

LiFO and non-LiFO inventories

When the level of, or change in, the book value of inventories is to be deflated, it is important to know whether the book value reflects last-in, first-out (LIFO) or non-LIFO inventory accounting. This is because the impact of changing prices on book values is different under the two methods. The LIFO method of inventory accounting calculates book values on the assumption that the goods purchased last are used up first. The bulk

Table 1.—Stocks of Business Inventories in Book Values, 1928-71
[In billions of delical

	Total	Parm	Nonform						
Bnd of year			Total	By isgal form of degentration		By Industry			
				Corporate	Noncor- poesto	Manufec- tering	Wholesale trade	Rotati trode	All other
1928 1924	\$1.1 40.0	9. B 9. 5	29. 8 20. 5	23. 5 24. 6	£.8	12.1 12.7	6,8 6.7	7.3 7.4	3.0 3.6
1930 1931 1982 1933	38.5 27.2 22.0 94.0 25.8	7.1 5.4 4.1 4.2 5.8	26. 4 21. 8 17. 0 10. 2 20. 0	21.5 18.0 15.1 10.4 17.2	4.9 3.1 2.1 2.8 2.8	11, 2 8, 0 7, 1 7, 9 8, 5	6.2 5.4 5.8 5.3 5.5	61 50 62 61	2.0 2.5 1.8 1.9
1615 1616 1617 1618 1619	29. 1 31. 6 33. 1 20. 2 91. 3	8.4 8.0 7.7 7.0 6.0	21.7 23.6 25.4 23.3 24.4	17. 6 20. 6 21. 5 10. 6 20. 6	3.1 3.6 3.5 3.5	8.0 10.5 11.8 10.6 13.3	5.5 6.0 6.1 5.7 5.0	4.5 6.5 6.0 6.0	1.7 1.8 2.0 1.0 1.8
1040 1041 1042 1048	34. 2 44. 5 50. 6 51. 6 51. 8	7,7 10.0 14.7 15.4 15.8	26.6 33.6 25.9 36.9 26.9	22.4 28.2 21.8 80.3 20.4	4.1 6.5 6.0 8.1 8.6	12.6 16.8 10.1 10.0 10.3	0.1 6.0 6.6 6.8	5.5 7.7 7.7 7.7	1.0 2.4 2.5 2.6
1048 1948 1947 1948	5L 7 71.2 83.0 87.0 78.6	15.6 21.8 25.8 29.4 10.5	58.1 49.4 58.1 63.6 59.1	28. 4 60. 1 67. 3 51. 5 67. 9	7, 9 6, 2 10, 6 12, 1 11, 1	18.2 24.4 24.6 21.5 20.8	7.5 9.6 10.6 11.3 10.0	7.7 1). 6 14.0 15.0 14.0	7.7 7.7 4.8 4.4
1950 1951 1952 1983	05. 3 108. 2 105. 8 106. 5 103. 6	94. 2 98. 5 93. 1 91. 8 90. 5	71.1 81.7 82.7 84.0 63.1	57. 7 67. 4 68. 7 70. 5 68. 0	12.4 14.3 14.0 14.1 14.2	34. 1 42. 8 44. 0 45. 8 43. 6	12.4 14.0 14.0 14.2 14.5	10.8 10.0 10.5 10.2 10.4	8.2 6.2 6.7 5.7
1958 1934 1947 1946	108, 2 117, 1 122, 4 124, 4 137, 4	17. 4 16. 3 20. 0 24. 0 22. 0	00.6 08.8 101.8 00.8 104.8	76. 6 83. 1 85. 3 88. 0 87. 6	15.0 15.7 18.2 18.5 17.3	47. 8 53. 0 53. 7 51. 8 64. 3	16.6 16.7 16.0 16.0 18.4	21.7 22.6 23.8 23.0 24.8	87 66 7.1 7.1
1940 1961 1982 1988	130. 7 133. 3 139. 7 141. 6 141. 8	22.7 28.6 24.9 94.3 92.4	109.0 109.7 114.8 120.1 127.4	90, 4 82, 0 98, 4 101, 9 107, 6	17. 6 17. 7 18. 3 19. 1 14. 3	55. 2 56. 6 59. 2 61. 7 65. 0	18.7 19.3 19.0 21.2 22.4	25, 3 25, 8 27, 4 28, 9 30, 5	7,7 0.1 0.3 8.6 0.4
1968 1966 1967 1968	164.7 188.2 191.8 204.0 220.0	26.6 28.1 27.7 28.9 82.2	139, 1 155, 9 164, 1 175, 1 169, 7	117. 2 138. 4 141. 8 151. 5 183. 4	20.9 21.9 22.3 28.6 28.4	68.8 79.7 84.4 90:5 04.6	24, 0 26, 7 28, 1 29, 4 31, 7	33, 8 37, 4 38, 4 41, 0 44, 3	10. S 11. 4 13. 3 14. 3 16. 1
1970, 197),,	211.6 241.5	82.9 87.0	198.7 204.5	172.5 178.8	28, 2 28, 2	101. € 101. 8	34.3 26.9	45.5 48.7	17. 5 10. 3

NOTE. Details may not aid to totals because of rounding.

of non-LIFO inventories is valued by the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method, and in the estimation of the national income and product accounts all non-LIFO inventories are assumed to be valued by the FIFO method.

In a period of rising prices, LIFO book values tend to underestimate current replacement costs. The FIFO method generally results in book value figures for inventory stocks that are closer to actual current replacement cost than the book value figures resulting from LIFO accounting. The reason for this is that the FIFO method assumes that goods in inventory constantly turn over, the older (first in) goods being replaced with goods valued at current prices, while the LIFO method assumes that the older goods remain in the stock longer than goods purchased recently.

The estimated amount of LIFO inventories was derived initially from special studies for 1947 and 1951 by BEA, from Moody's Manual of Industrial Securities, and from Internal Revenue Service data. The estimates have been updated over time with information from Moody's and the IRS, and recently, from a study by BEA in 1970. LIFO inventories are currently estimated to account for about 11 percent of the book value of total nonfarm inventories. The figure is about 19 percent for manufacturing as a whole but ranges from zero to 60 percent among industries within manufacturing. Only 4 percent of retail trade inventories is estimated to be LIFO, zero percent of wholesale trade inventories, and less than 2 percent of the rest of nonfarm inventories.

Change in nonfarm inventories

The estimates of change in book value of nonfarm inventories used in the national income and product accounts are derived from yearend book values reported in the economic censuses and the current surveys of the Census Bureau and from tax return data. In the derivation of change in nonfarm inventories in constant (1958) prices, the portion of total book value that is estimated to be reported on a LIFO basis is processed separately from the rest, which is

assumed to be reported on a FIFO hasis.

Since the book value of inventories valued by the FIFO method reflects an assumed continuous turnover of goods in inventory, the book value of FIFO inventories is assumed to approximate their value in current prices. The selection of price indexes to deflate yearend book values of FIFO inventories to constant (1958) prices is based on the business practice of valuing yearend FIFO inventories at their costs at the time they were purchased or at yearend market prices, whichever is lower. To approximate this valuation. BEA constructs two deflating indexes for inventories in each industry. The first is a composite index of wholesale prices of a period near yearend, the selection of the prices reflecting the commodity composition of the inventories and the length of the period determined by the rate of turnover of inventories. The second index represents yearend market prices and is derived by averaging wholesale price indexes for December and the following January. The lower of these two indexes is used to deflate yearend FIFO inventories to constant prices.

Information is not available on the commodity or age composition of LIFO inventories. Thus, it is not possible to deflate yearend book values of these inventories directly as is done with FIFO inventories. Instead, the annual changes in the book value of LIFO inventories are deflated. An increase in LIFO book values during a year is assumed to reflect an increase in the physical volume of LIFO stocks valued at current prices. A decrease in LIFO book values during a year is assumed to reflect a decrease in the physical volume of LIFO stocks valued in prices of prior years. Such decreases are adjusted to current prices by a ratio which expresses the relationship of current year prices to prices of the year(s) in which the expended inventories are estimated to have been put into stock. The resulting annual estimates of change in LIFO inventories in the current prices of each given year are deflated to estimates of change in 1958 prices by annual wholesale price indexes whose composition reflects the commodity composition of the change in inventories.

Stocks of nonform inventories

The nonform stocks in book values shown in table I were derived separately for each major industry. Stocks in manufacturing and in wholesale trade were calculated for yearend 1967 on the basis of the 1967 economic censuses, and the stock in retail trade was calculated for yearend 1968 on the basis of the 1968 annual retail trade survey. Stocks for all other nonform industries were colculated for yearend 1954 on the basis of IRS tax return data. These levels were moved forward to 1971 by adding annual changes in book value

and back to 1928 by subtracting annual changes in book value.

The nonfarm stocks in constant (1958) prices shown in table 2 were derived separately for LIFO and FIFO stocks in each major industry. For LIFO stocks, a yearend level was estimated for the first year for which LIFO data were available-1939 for manufacturing, 1946 for retail trade. 1953 for other nonfarm industries having LIFO inventories. These levels were moved forward to 1971 by successively adding the estimated LIFO inventory change by industry in constant (1958) prices described above. For FIFO stocks, yearend values in constant (1958) prices were available directly, having been calculated in the

Table 2.—Stocks of Business Inventories in Constant Prices, 1928-71

			<u> </u>	Billions of	1958 (66)[6(3]					
End of your	Total	Form	Nontarzn							
			Total	By legal form of organization		Dy Industry				
				Corporato	Noncor- poreto	Manufac- turing	Wholeselo trade	Roled trade	All other	
1028 1020	71. 5 75. 1	1A.D 1A.D	53.5 57.1	42. 1 45. 1	11. ¢ 12. 0	25.0 27.7	8.0 8.1	12.6 14.1	6. 0 7. 3	
1930 1931 1932 1933	74. 4 72. 0 06. 6 01. 4 53. 6	17. 8 19. 3 20. 1 10. 6 16. 6	54.6 62.7 45.7 41.8 42.3	45. 0 42. 8 37. 0 38. 0 25. 5	11.1 0.9 8.1 6.0 6.7	20, 2 27, 5 24, 0 22, 1 22, 4	8.1 7.1 0.6 6.4 6.5	13.1 12.2 10.4 0.3 5.2	6.2 5.9 6.7 6.1	
1988 1987 1988 1988	61. 2 64. 3 60. 6 67. 4 68. 6	18.0 10.7 18.1 18.3 18.8	43.3 49.0 81.7 49.1 49.8	26, 2 30, 0 43, 2 40, 0 41, 4	7.0 8.5 8.3 8.3	23.0 25.6 28.4 25.0 27.3	6.5 7.6 7.6 7.1 7.3	0.0 11.3 11.4 11.0 11.3	3.8 4.0 4.0 3.0	
(940 (941 (942 (943	73. 6 83. 2 87. 1 86. 9 85. 0	10.5 20.6 22.5 23.7 23.2	\$4.0 \$2.0 \$4.0 \$4.3 \$2.8	43.0 52.1 53.0 53.7 51.6	0.0 10.4 19.7 19.4 11.8	90.1 35.7 39.4 40.6 38.8	7.7 8.2 7.2 6.8 7.2	(2.8 13.9 13.2 12.4 12.3	8.6 4.7 4.6 4.6	
1945 1946 1947 1948	82.1 02.1 91.9 96.5 93.5	21.9 21.1 19.5 29.5 19.7	64.8 71.0 79.4 70.0 72.8	48. 8 58. 3 50. 6 61. 0 50. 3	12.0 12.7 12.9 14. L 13. G	35.1 39.0 40.4 41.6 39.4	8.1 0.5 0.4 10.4 10.4	12.7 13.0 10.5 18.1 17.7	4.8 6.7 6.0 6.0	
1950 1951 1952 1958	180, 8 111, 8 114, 0 114, 0 113, 9	20. 5 21. 5 22. 2 21. 8 22. 3	80, 3 90, 3 92, 8 94, 2 11, 6	66.3 74.6 77.3 78.3 78.0	16. L 13. 7 15. 5 15. 9 15. 7	42.0 30.8 32.8 34.4 61.6	12.0 12.5 12.8 12.0 13.2	20, 3 20, 4 20, 4 20, 8 21, 0	6.6 6.1 6.1 6.1	
1986 1988 1987 1988	120, 3 126, 9 120, 4 124, 9 120, 8	22.7 22.7 23.5 23.5 24.6	07.0 303.0 309.7 301.4 306.2	81. 4 86. 5 87. 0 84. 8 89. 0	36.3 36.5 16.7 16.0 17.0	\$4.2 88.2 57.8 55.8 57.8	14.4 18.0 14.8 14.8	21.2 23.4 24.2 24.6 23.1	6.8 6.4 6.6 7.0	
1960 1961 1963 1963	133, 3 135, 2 141, 2 147, 0 152, B	23.8 24.0 24.7 25.4 24.0	100. & 111. 2 118. 6 121. 6 127. 9	91. 4 95. 5 98. 1 109. 2 109. 1	17.6 17.6 18.4 18.2 18.0	80. 2 40. 3 68. 1 68. 0	16. 8 17. 1 17. 8 10. 0 20. 2	24.5 25.0 27.7 20.1 34.5	7. 7 7. 9 8. 0 8. 4	
1965 1966 1967 1969	161. 9 175. 8 183. 5 100. 0 196. 7	25.0 25.7 26.4 24.6 26.6	196. 0 150. 1 157. 1 163. 4 170. 1	116.5 130.1 138.9 142.7 148.5	10. 6 20, 0 20. 7 20. 7 21. 6	71.8 80.3 84.2 88.2 11.0	21.0 23.1 24.2 24.0 20.6	33. 2 36. 0 36. 4 37. 7 39. 4	10. 0 10. 7 12. 3 12. 0 14. 1	
1970 1971	200. 7 203. 4	28. S 27. 7	174. L 175. 7	152.5 153.0	21.5 22.7	13, 2 10, 7	27.1 28.2	EL 1 4L 2	14.7 15.6	

Nors,-Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

computation of constant dollar change in non-LIFO inventories, described above.

The nonfarm stocks valued in the current prices of each yearend, shown in table 3, were derived in the following manner: For years when no LIFO stocks are assumed to have existed for a particular industry, stocks in book values were assumed to be equal to stocks in current prices for that industry, since FIFO accounting assumes that stocks turn over continuously. For years when stocks contained some LIFO inventories, the estimates of such stocks in current price valuation were

derived by multiplying stocks in constant (1958) prices by composite indexes of yearend market prices.

The allocation of nonfarm stocks in each major industry into corporate and noncorporate shares was based, for years prior to 1963, on annual Internal Revenue Service tabulations. Starting with 1963, the basic source for the corporate-noncorporate allocation was the Census Bureau's Enterprise Statistics: 1963. In general, the use of the latter source yielded corporate-noncorporate shares similar to those derived from the IRS data.

Table 3.—Stocks of Business Inventories in Current Prices, 1928-71

(In billions of dollars)

	Total	Farm	Nontern							
Bud of year			Total	By legal farm of organization		By industry				
				Corporate	Namoor- porate	Manufac- turing	Whoteesis trade	Retail trade	All other	
1928 1929	30. 1 40, 0	9.8 9.5	29. 3 20. 5	2). š 24. 6	6.8 6.0	12.1 12.7	6.8 6.7	7. a 7. 4	3. 0 3. 6	
1980 1981 1982 1933	27, 5 27, 2 24, 0 24, 0 25, 8	7. L & 4. 4. L 4. 8 & 8	26. 4 21. 8 17. 9 10. 2 28. 0	21. 5 18. 0 15. 1 16. 4 17. 2	4.8 8.7 2.2 2.3	11.2 8.0 7.1 2.0 8.5	6.2 6.0 6.3 6.6	6.1 5.0 1.0 6.2 4.1	2.9 2.6 1.8 1.8 1.9	
1935	20, 1 30, 6 33, 1 20, 2 22, 1	8.4 8.7 7.0 6.9	20.7 21.0 25.4 26.2 28.2	17.6 20.0 21.5 19.6 21.2	& 1 & 6 & 5 & 5 & 5	8.0 10.5 11.8 10.6 12.1	6.6 6.0 6.7 6.0	4.6 5.6 5.0 5.8	1.7 1.8 2.0 1.9 1.8	
1940 1941 1942 1945	#4.8 45.6 61.0 53.2 53.4	7.7 10.9 14.7 15.4 15.6	27. 1 34. 7 37. 2 37. 8 37. 6	22, 8 29, 1 33, 4 31, 5 20, 9	4.3 5.0 6.2 6.2 6.7	13. 2 17. 8 20. 4 21. 5 21. 0	6.1 6.6 6.6 6.8	5.0 7.5 7.6 7.3	L 9 9 4 9 5 2 4	
1945 1948 1947 1948	53.2 73.7 64.9 94.0 84.9	15.6 21.6 75.6 73.4 10.6	37.6 53.0 63.1 67.2 61.4	30. 3 42. 6 60. 3 54. 9 50. 2	7.3 9.4 10.8 12.2 11.2	19.8 26.7 31.8 24.8 31.0	7. 4 0. 6 10. 6 11. \$ 10. 9	7. 7 11. 0 14. 0 16. 1 15. 0	2.7 1.7 4.8 4.9	
1950 1951 1952 1958	99. 9 112, 1 110. 1 117. 3	24, 2 26, 5 23, 1 21, 6 20, 5	74.6 84.6 86.3 88.4 86.7	61.0 71.1 72.1 74.0 72.2	13.6 14.5 14.1 14.6 14.5	37.4 48.2 67.3 49.2 47.0	18. 4 14.0 14.0 14.2 14.5	18.6 10.2 18.8 19.5 19.7	5. 2 6. 2 8. 2 8. 6 8. 6	
1956 1957 1958 1958 1958	113. 2 121. 3 124. 7 125. 6 132. 0	17.6 18.7 20.0 24.0 21.6	84.6 108.8 103.8 108.9 109.4	79. 2 87. 5 89. 4 87. 0 91. 8	15.2 16.0 16.5 16.9 17.6	51.4 57.5 57.0 58.0 58.7	16.6 16.7 16.9 16.9 18.4	21.9 22.0 24.0 24.1 25.2	5.6 8.6 8.0 7.1	
1960 1961 1972 1983	135. 5 138. 2 144. 7 149. 5 154. 8	22. 7 28. 6 24. 0 24. 3 22. 4	112.8 114.7 119.8 126.2 182.5	84.8 96.5 191.0 196.4 111.0	18. 2 18. 8 18. 8 19. 5	80.0 61.2 64.0 88.2 80.7	18. 7 19. 3 19. 9 21. 2 22. 4	28.8 26.3 28.0 29.5 31.2	7. 3 7. 8 8. 0 8. 4 9. 2	
1985 1986 1987 1988	170. 8 190. 3 199. 3 212. 5 231. 7	26, 6 28, 1 27, 7 , 28, 9 32, 2	144, 2 162, 2 171, 6 183, 6 191, 5	12), 6 160, 7 149, 6 160, 4 174, 6	90.6 21.5 22.0 28.2 24.9	75.4 88.1 91.3 98.3 106.9	24.0 26.7 28.1 20.4 31.7	34.5 38.2 30.2 41.9 44.8	30. 2 31. 2 32. 3 34. 0 38. 1	
1970 1971	241.5 254.3	32. g 37. 0	210. 8 210. 3	184. 9 101. 5	25. 8 27. 8	112.5 113.6	34. 3 36, 9	46.0 47.2	27. 4 10. i	

NOTE.-Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Farm inventories

The annual change in farm inventories that enters into current dollar GNP is not derived from reported book values; it is calculated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the change during the year in physical quantities of crops and livestock on farms, multiplied by average prices for the year. This change is deflated to 1958 prices by BEA by use of price indexes reflecting the commodity composition of the inventory change.

For yearends 1966-71, stocks of farm inventories in the current prices of each yearend were calculated from U.S. Department of Agriculture data, yearend quantities of each kind of crop and livestock being multiplied by yearend prices. For yearends 1928-54, stocks of farm inventories in the current prices of each yearend were calculated by reflating constant (1958) price stocks (see below) by composite yearend price indexes based on indexes of wholesale prices. It is assumed that all farm inventories are valued on the FIFO basis, and thus the stocks in current prices of each yearend are assumed to be equal to the stocks in book values. Thus, the farm inventory data in tables 1 and 3 are identical.

The stock of farm inventories at yearend 1958 in 1958 prices was derived by multiplying yearend 1958 quantities by average 1958 prices. This stock was moved forward to 1971 by adding, and back to 1928 by subtracting, the estimated annual changes in farm inventories in constant (1958) prices calculated for the income and product accounts.

The estimates of farm inventories in tables 1 through 3 differ from the corresponding estimates in the Agriculture Department's Balance Sheet of Agriculture because of several definitional differences. The most important of these involves farmers' inventories of crops used as collateral for Commodity Credit Corporation loans, which are considered as farm inventories in the Balance Sheet of Agriculture but not in the national income and product accounts.